

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Cost of production of major food crops

2895. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of production of major food crops has gone up during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of the cost of production, crop-wise during the last five years; and

(c) what have been the procurement price/support price of these crops during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Cost of production of crops depends on cost of cultivation and productivity. Accordingly in case the productivity increases at a higher rate than the increase in cost of cultivation, the cost of production may actually decline. Conversely the cost of production may increase. Seen over a period of time, the cost of production shows a fluctuating pattern.

(b) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) The Minimum Support Price of major food crops is given below.

Minimum Support Price of Major Food Crops

(Unit = Rs./Qtl.)

Year	Paddy	Wheat	Gram
1995-96	360 (Common)	380	700
	375 (Fine)		
	395 (Superfine)		
1996-97	380 (Common)	475*	740
	395 (Fine)		
	415 (Superfine)		
1997-98	415 (Common)	510*	815
	445 (Grade 'A')		

Year	Paddy	Wheat	Gram
1998-99	440 (Common) 470 (Grade 'A')	550	895
1999-2000	490 (Common) 520 (Grade 'A')	580	1015

*Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 60.00/Qtl. payable upto 30th June, 1997.

**Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 55.00/Qtl. payable from 1-1-98 to 30-6-98.

Enquiry against DG, ICAR

2896. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) was indicted by a Vigilance Committee over the purchase of a computer system and on the CBI recommendations he was removed from his post while the inquiry was pending;

(b) if so, whether the Vigilance Committee's inquiry report has been sent to the CBI or CVC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Allegations against the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have been enquired into by Sh. Bhaskar Barua, formerly Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation who has since taken voluntary retirement from Government service on 26th February, 2001. The report is under process.

Problem of Indebtedness among Farmers

2897. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been appointed by Government to study the problem of indebtedness among farmers in the country; and